

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
 - a main unit having an image forming section configured to form an image on a sheet of paper;
 - an image reading section located just above the main unit, and configured to read a document image;
 - an ejection space defined between a bottom of the image reading section and the image forming section, the ejection space having an opening at a front of the main unit;
 - an ejection tray cover defining a bottom of the ejection space and configured to receive a paper sheet ejected from the image forming section, the ejection tray cover covering the image forming section;
 - an attachment section provided at a front of the image reading section; and
 - a control panel unit attached to the attachment section by a hinge having a predetermined rotational resistance, the control panel unit being rotatable through a predetermined angle with respect to an imaginary horizontal plane, the control panel unit being able to be held in a direction of rotation;
 - a guide rail attached to the attachment section provided at the front of the image reading section; and
 - a movable rail movable along the guide rail, and
 - wherein the control panel unit is attached to the movable rail by the hinge having the predetermined rotational resistance, the control panel unit being rotatable through the predetermined angle with respect to the imaginary horizontal plane, the control panel unit being able to be held in the direction of rotation, the control panel unit being movable in a direction of a width of the main unit when a force not less than a predetermined value is exerted on the control panel unit.

2. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the rotational resistance of the hinge can hold the control panel unit stationary in the direction of rotation even if an operational force is applied to the control panel unit.

3. Cancel

4. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim ~~3~~1, wherein the control panel unit moves in the direction of the width of the main unit if a force of 1N or more is exerted thereon, and the control panel unit does not move if a force less than ~~in 1N~~ 1N is exerted thereon.

5. Cancel

6. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:
a main unit having an image forming section configured to form an image on a sheet of paper;
an image reading section including a base plate, located just above the main unit, and configured to read a document image;
an ejection space defined between a bottom of the image reading section and the image forming section, the ejection space having an opening at a front of the main unit;
an ejection tray cover defining a bottom of the ejection space and configured to receive a paper sheet ejected from the image forming section, the ejection tray cover covering the image forming section;
an attachment section provided at a front of the image reading section, and including a supporting plate secured with the base plate of the image reading section, a shaft fixed on the supporting plate, and a pivotable swing plate fitted with the shaft; and

a control panel unit attached to the pivotable swing plate of the attachment section, and mounted to enable the attachment section to have a predetermined rotational resistance, the control panel unit being rotatable through a predetermined angle with respect to an imaginary horizontal plane, and being able to be held in a direction of rotation.

7. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the pivotable swing plate is formed of resin, and includes a fitting hole in which the shaft is fitted.

8. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the shaft has a diameter which is greater than an inside diameter of the fitting hole of the pivotable swing plate.

9. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the shaft has a diameter which is greater than an inside diameter of the fitting hole by 0.05 to 0.3 mm.

10. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the shaft is press-fitted in the fitting hole of the pivotable swing shaft.

11. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:
a main unit having an image forming section configured to form an image on a sheet of paper;

an image reading section located just above the main unit, and configured to read a document image;

an ejection space defined between a bottom of the image reading section and the image forming section, the ejection space having an opening at a front of the main unit;

an ejection tray cover defining a bottom of the ejection space and configured to receive a paper sheet ejected from the image forming section, the ejection tray cover covering the image forming section;

an attachment section provided at a front of the image reading section; and

a control panel unit attached to the attachment section by a hinge including a powder-utilizing torque limiter.

12. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the power-utilizing torque limiter includes iron powder.